

Dear Friends,

I wonder how you are finding these strange Covid days. I sense that many people are thoroughly exhausted with it all. Nothing is as straightforward as it once was. However, amidst the huge and unfamiliar demands I also observe a lot of deep reflection and creativity. Whatever your experience I trust that you are finding God's strength and encouragement.

C – You are very faithful in asking about C, our 10 year old foster daughter, and I am conscious that I haven't said much about her for a few months. She seems to be thoroughly enjoying being back at school and continues to be very reliable in her care of her precious bunnies, Snowy and Midnight. She takes a very intelligent and caring interest in them. But perhaps the main thing to say is that she seems so mature in many ways. She has grown a lot over the past year and is so very, very different from the little girl who joined us 4½ years ago.

SERVICES – I loved my visit to Alvehurch Baptist Church in Worcestershire last Sunday, To preach to a real congregation was such a blessing, although doing so behind a screen felt weird and addressing people wearing masks felt very odd. But it was so much better than preaching in our dining room which I have done more than 20 times since the start of lockdown!

VOICE OF HOPE – I have been delighted by the autumn edition of Voice of Hope magazine which contains my first devotional reflections. Today they will start going out on the Premier radio stations and I am pleased with the way in which they have produced them. It feels like a fascinating new adventure and I continue to feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity.

Thanks for your prayers and encouragement.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

OCTOBER DIARY

Thursday 1st
Waterlooville Baptist online Church Members' Meeting

Friday 2nd
Spurgeon's College online Council

Saturday 3rd
Day Off

Sunday 4th
Preaching at Waterlooville Baptist Church online

Monday 5th
Pastoral Visits

Tuesday 6th

Mentoring

Preaching at Loughton Baptist Church, Milton Keynes – the recording to be used next Sunday

Wednesday 7th

Meeting with our Supervising Social Worker

Thursday 8th

Southern Counties Mentoring Workshop

Friday 9th

Writing Day

Saturday 10th

Day Off

Sunday 11th

Preaching at Loughton Baptist Church, recorded

Monday 12th

Eastleigh Baptist Church online Ministry Team Meeting

Eastleigh Baptist Church online Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday 13th

A live Deacons' Meeting at Ashley Baptist Church, Hampshire!

Wednesday 14th

Online Spurgeon's meeting to reflect on issues arising from the Black Lives Matter debate

Thursday 15th

Waterlooville Baptist Church online Deacons' Meeting

Friday 16th

Count Everyone In strategy meeting – face to face!

Saturday 17th

Waterlooville Baptist Church online Deacons' Morning

Sunday 18th

Not preaching today (recorded or live) ... for the first time in 3 months! From now on I will revert to my normal practice of having one Sunday each month on which I do not preach.

Monday 19th

Gloucestershire and Worcestershire visits

Tuesday 20th

Recording the November devotionals for Premier radio (we have proved that we can do this in a couple of hours)

Parish Nursing Trustees' Meeting

Wednesday 21st
West Berkshire online Cluster Lunch

Thursday 22nd
Central Swindon Church Meeting

Friday 23rd
Writing Day

Saturday 24th
Day Off

Sunday 25th
to Saturday 31st
Half Term Break in Devon

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